



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

May 2 to May 9, 2005

NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Week of 5/2:

The Cincinnati (OH) Police Department's submission of a test fire from a pistol recovered from a felon resulted in a link in NIBIN to two violent crimes that occurred ten days apart. Cincinnati Police responded to a homicide scene and located a deceased victim with several gunshot wounds. Officers recovered several cartridge casings and a pistol at the scene. The casings and a test fire from the pistol were entered into NIBIN at the Hamilton County Coroner's Laboratory, but the pistol did not match the casings found at the scene. Ten days later Cincinnati Police responded to the scene of a shooting and located one wounded victim and two wounded suspects. The victim told police he was sitting in the area when the two suspects began shooting at each other. All three were wounded by the gunfire. Police located spent cartridge casings and determined there may have been another person present as no firearm was located at the scene. The ballistic evidence was entered into NIBIN and linked to the shooting ten days earlier. Six days later Cincinnati Police pursued a subject who ran when he saw police. The officers saw the subject throw a firearm as he ran. When police caught the suspect, he was wearing body armor and they later discovered he was a convicted felon. The firearm was recovered, test fired and entered into NIBIN, which resulted in a link to the homicide and aggravated assault. Additionally, it was discovered that the pistol had been reported stolen.

Week of 5/9:

The Harrisburg (PA) Police Department matched a pistol recovered from a convicted felon to ballistic evidence collected at the scene of a homicide months earlier by using the NIBIN system at the Pennsylvania State Police Laboratory. Harrisburg Police responded to a report of a man shot at a fast food restaurant. The officers found a victim dead at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds. Several shell casings and bullet fragments were found in the parking lot. A witness told police the victim might have been shot for selling fake cocaine. The description of a possible suspect was given to police, but after additional investigation was not considered a suspect in the homicide. The casings were imaged into NIBIN. Four months later, Harrisburg Police pulled into a parking lot where a group of males was gathered. The group disbursed in different directions and police saw one individual discard something. The officers recovered a loaded pistol that the suspect had discarded. Police returned to the parking lot and saw two cars parked. Inside one of the cars was a bag containing crack cocaine on the dashboard. The pistol was test fired and entered into NIBIN, which resulted in a match to the ballistic evidence collected at the scene of the homicide at the fast food restaurant. Police later identified the suspect who was driving the car and found that the gun was given to him by another person who knew he was a convicted felon. The suspect was arrested.